

## LESSONS 15 AND 16

---

# Animals

---

## LESSON 15

*Ubi mel, ubi apes.*

Where there is honey, there are bees.—PLAUTUS

Key Words		
apiary	canine	capricious
asinine	caper	equestrian
aviary	caprice	equine
bovine		equitation

### APIS <L. "bee"

#### 1. apiary (ā'pē ěr'ē)

*n.* A place where hives or colonies of bees are kept for their honey.

Since bees depend on sunlight to set their flight bearings, an **apiary** should be located with its entrance facing east.

**apiarist**, *n.*



**ASINUS** <L. "ass"2. **asinine** (ăs'ə nīn)

*adj.* Having the characteristics of an ass; stupid; obstinate.

You're being **asinine** to quit the team just because you don't like the uniforms.

**asininity**, *n.*

**Familiar Words**

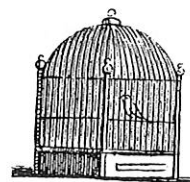
aviation  
aviator

**AVIS** <L. "bird"3. **aviary** (ā'vē ər'ē)

*n.* A house, enclosure, or large cage for birds.

Vibrantly colored parrots strutted inside the **aviary**.

**aviarist**, *n.*

**Challenge Word**

avian

**BOS, BOVIS** <L. "cow," "ox"4. **bovine** (bō'vīn, bō'vēn)

*adj.* Having the quality of a cow or ox: sluggish, dull, or stupid.

Despite the comedian's antics, the audience sat in **bovine** silence.

**bovinity**, *n.*

**Challenge Words**

Canis Major  
Canis Minor

**CANIS** <L. "dog"5. **canine** (kā'nīn)

*n.* Member of the family of dogs.

Like dogs, wolves and foxes are **canines**.

*adj.* Pertaining to the family of dogs, and especially the qualities associated with them.

Two **canine** movie stars are the faithful Rin Tin Tin and Lassie.



**NOTA BENE:** *Canine* is also used to refer to the eyetooth, between the incisor and the bicuspid. The word is used as both noun and adjective. Example: The child wears braces to realign protruding *canines*, or to realign *canine* teeth.

**caninity**, *n.*

**Familiar Word**  
Capricorn

**Challenge Words**  
capriccio  
capriole

**CAPER (m.), CAPRA (f.)** <L. "goat"

**6. caper** (kā'pər)

*n.* 1. A playful hop, leap, or skip.

The colorful streamers of the maypole and the agile **capers** of the dancers contributed to the festive ambience of an English May Day.



2. A prank or wild escapade.

Mr. Toad's motor-car-stealing **caper** begins with easy acceleration and ends with wheels churning up mud in a horsepond.

*intr. v.* To leap, frolic, or frisk about.

The children **capered** excitedly when their kites began to soar.

**7. caprice** (kə prēs')

*n.* A sudden impulse, whim, or unmotivated change of mind.

Hating changes, cartoon character Charlie Brown dreads the **caprices** of his friend Lucy.

**NOTA BENE:** In music, a caprice is a lively instrumental work with a free form.

**8. capricious** (kə prīsh'əs)

*adj.* Subject to whim; impulsive; unpredictable or fickle.

Popularity is **capricious**: yesterday's "insiders" are often on the outside today.

**capriciously**, *adv.*; **capriciousness**, *n.*

**Challenge Word**  
equerry

**EQUUS** <L. "horse"

**9. equine** (ē'kwīn)

*adj.* Pertaining to a horse; belonging to the family of horses, asses, and zebras.

Rosa Bonheur, nineteenth-century painter of animals, used **equine** subjects in her huge painting, "Horse Fair."



**10. equitation** (ĕk'wə tā'shən)

*n.* The art of riding horses.

In the Middle Ages a knight was expected to become a master of **equitation**.

11. **equestrian** (ĩ kwēs'trē ən)

*adj.* Pertaining to a rider of horses, or skill in riding.

An accomplished **equestrian** competitor, Robyn Smith was the first woman jockey to win a race involving major stakes.

*n.* One who rides or performs on horseback.

The Spaniards easily conquered the Americas not only because they were expert **equestrians**, but also because the native peoples had never before seen horses.

**equestrianism**, *n.*



## EXERCISE 15A

Circle the letter of the best SYNONYM (the word or phrase most nearly the same as the word in bold-faced type).

1. a keeper of **apiaries** a. monkey cages b. honeycombs c. worker bees d. beehives e. birds' nests
2. the **aviary** at the zoo a. collection of beehives b. large birdhouse c. flying fish d. exotic bird e. butterfly specimens
3. to **caper** in the park a. dance b. sleep c. leap d. act on impulse e. jog

Circle the letter of the best ANTONYM (the word or phrase most nearly opposite the word in bold-faced type).

4. a(n) **capricious** decision a. whimsical b. impulsive c. emotional d. clever e. thoughtful
5. **asinine** behavior a. foolish b. wise c. rebellious d. erratic e. irritating
6. a **bovine** existence a. peaceful b. dull c. lively d. cheerful e. rural

## EXERCISE 15B

Circle the letter of the sentence in which the word in bold-faced type is used incorrectly.

1. a. Dressage<sup>1</sup> is a form of **equestrian** competition that requires subtle guidance of a horse through complex maneuvers.
- b. **Equestrian** troops are inefficient in modern warfare.
- c. A race horse can be trained to be an obedient **equestrian**.

<sup>1</sup>Usually pronounced dŕēs ăjh'.